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(74) Agent: WHITE, John, P.; Cooper & Dunham LLP, 1185 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 (US).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): THE TRUSTEES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK [US/US]; 110 Low Memorial Library, West 116th & Broadway, New York, NY 10027 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): NAKANISHI, Koji [JP/US]; 560 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027 (US). JARACZ, Stanislav [CZ/US]; 488 Bicycle Path, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776 (US). MALIK, Shahid [PK/CA]; 961 Wonderland Road, London, N6K 2X9 (CA). ISHII, Hideki [JP/US]; 610 West 116th Street, Apt. 104, New York, NY 10027 (US). DZYUBA, Sergei, V. [UA/US]; 400 West 119th Street, Apt. 12H, New York, NY 10027 (US).

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(54) Title: SEPARATION OF GINKGOLIDES AND BILOBALIDE FROM G. BILOBA

(57) Abstract: The subject invention provides a method for separating a terpene trilactone from Ginkgo biloba plant material or from an extract of Ginkgo biloba comprising a mixture of terpene trilactones, the process comprising the steps of: a) subjecting the Ginkgo biloba plant material or the extract to column chromatography with an appropriate solvent system to produce at least a first fraction containing the terpene trilactone bilobalide, a second fraction eluted after the first fraction containing the terpene trilactones GA and GB, and a third fraction eluted after the second fraction containing at least a preponderance of the terpene trilactones GC and GJ; and b) alkylating the terpene trilactone GB of the second fraction so as to produce a first mixture including terpene trilactone GA and alkylated terpene trilactone GB; or alkylating the terpene trilactone GC of the third fraction so as to produce a second mixture including terpene trilactone GJ and alkylated terpene trilactone GC, so as to thereby isolate a terpene trilactone.